
U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

Gordon P. Eaton, Director

Reston, VA 20192

For information, contact:

John F. Papp, Commodity Specialist

Telephone: (703) 648-4963, Fax: (703) 648-7757

E-mail: jpapp@usgs.gov

Micheal George (Data), (703) 648-7962

MINES-DATA: (703) 648-7799

MINES FaxBack: (703) 648-4999

Internet: <http://minerals.er.usgs.gov/minerals>

CHROMIUM IN MARCH 1997

Chromite consumption increased 11% in March 1997 compared with the previous month's data, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Net production of chromium ferroalloys and metal in March 1997 increased 3% compared with data for February 1997. Chromite stocks decreased 9% over the same period. At the March rate of consumption, chromium stocks

represented 8 months of domestic supply.

Included in this Mineral Industry Surveys are: U.S. consumption and stocks of chromite; U.S. net production, net shipments, and stocks of chromium materials; U.S. Government inventory; and foreign trade for February 1997.

TABLE 1
U.S. SALIENT CHROMIUM STATISTICS 1/

(Metric tons, gross weight unless otherwise noted)

	1996	1997			
	Jan.-Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Jan. - Mar.
Production:					
Chromium ferroalloys and metal: 2/					
Net production:					
Gross weight	36,800	3,020	3,000	3,090	9,110
Chromium content	26,400	2,220	2,190	1,600	6,010
Net shipments	38,800	3,590	2,180 r/	5,080	10,900
Stainless steel production 3/	1,920,000	NA	NA	NA	NA
Components of U.S. supply:					
Stainless steel scrap receipts	579,000	57,900	51,600	58,800	168,000
Imports for consumption					
Chromite ore	250,000	37,700	3,030	NA	40,700 4/
Chromium ferroalloys 5/	420,000	31,600	18,900	NA	50,500 4/
Chromium metals 6/	8,740 r/	561	921	NA	1,480 4/
Stainless steel	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Stainless steel scrap	47	NA	NA	NA	NA
Distribution of U.S. supply:					
Consumption:					
Chromite ore	282,000	21,000	20,600	22,900	64,600
Chromium ferroalloys & metals	289,000	NA	NA	NA	NA
Exports:					
Chromite ore	69,400	1,540	5,930	NA	7,470 4/
Chromium ferroalloys	15,800	635	975	NA	1,610 4/
Chromium metals	1,330	60	142	NA	203 4/
Stainless steel	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Stainless steel scrap	303	23	23	NA	46 4/
Stocks at end of period:					
Industry:					
Chromite ore:					
Chemical and metallurgical	165,000 r/	179,000	187,000	170,000	XX
Refractory	7,890	8,030	8,730 r/	8,660	XX
Total	173,000 r/	188,000	195,000	179,000	XX
Chromium ferroalloys and metal:					
Producer	6,450 r/	5,870	6,690 r/	4,700	XX
Consumer	24,400	NA	NA	NA	XX
Government stockpile:					
Chromite ore	1,190,000	1,180,000	1,170,000	1,160,000	XX
Chromium ferroalloys	1,050,000	1,040,000	1,030,000	1,030,000	XX
Chromium metals	7,720	7,720	7,720	7,720	XX

r/ Revised. NA Not available. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes low- and high-carbon ferrochromium, chromium concentrates, ferrochromium, chromium metal, and other miscellaneous alloys.

3/ Data on stainless steel production from American Iron and Steel Institute, quarterly production of stainless and heat resisting raw steel.

4/ Includes data for January through February; March not available at time of publication.

5/ Includes high-, medium-, and low- ferrochromium and ferrochromium silicon.

6/ Includes waste and scrap and other.

TABLE 2
U.S. GOVERNMENT STOCKPILE INVENTORY 1/ OF CHROMIUM MATERIALS 2/

(Metric tons)

Period	Chromite ore			Chromium ferroalloys			Chromium metal	
	Chemical	Metal-lurgical	Refractory	High-carbon ferro-chromium	Low-carbon ferro-chromium	Ferro-chromium silicon	Alumino-thermic	Electrolytic
1996:								
March	220,000	722,000	328,000	738,000	283,000	52,900	2,670	5,020
April	220,000	717,000	328,000	738,000	283,000	52,900	2,670	5,020
May	220,000	694,000	328,000	738,000	283,000	52,900	2,670	5,020
June	220,000	658,000	327,000	738,000	283,000	52,900	2,670	5,020
July	220,000	655,000	322,000	738,000	283,000	52,900	2,670	5,020
August	220,000	655,000	322,000	738,000	283,000	52,900	2,670	5,020
September	220,000	647,000	322,000	734,000	283,000	52,700	2,670	5,050
October	220,000	645,000	322,000	732,000	283,000	52,700	2,670	5,050
November	220,000	645,000	322,000	725,000	283,000	52,700	2,670	5,050
December	220,000	645,000	322,000	718,000	283,000	52,700	2,670	5,050
1997:								
January	220,000	637,000	322,000	704,000	283,000	52,700	2,670	5,050
February	220,000	633,000	322,000	695,000	283,000	52,700	2,670	5,050
March	220,000	627,000	318,000	695,000	283,000	52,700	2,670	5,050

1/ Includes specification and non-specification grade materials and materials set aside for disposal but not yet shipped.

2/ Data are rounded to three significant digits.

Source: Defense National Stockpile Center.

TABLE 3
U.S. EXPORTS OF CHROMITE ORE, CHROMIUM FERROALLOYS AND METAL 1/

Period	Chromite ore		Chromium ferroalloys 2/			Chromium metal 3/	
	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Chromium content (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
1996:							
February	1,700	\$407	887	536	\$1,230	44	\$618
March	1,840	484	669	399	894	124	1,450
April	17,100	2,280	734	444	843	165	1,530
May	1,730	1,160	472	288	597	76	863
June	37,900	4,270	490	291	583	143	1,110
July	1,920	568	1,320	797	1,640	214	1,820
August	1,060	564	676	411	694	63	717
September	614	132	955	554	912	137	772
October	1,310	152	1,100	680	956	97	1,010
November	1,390	486	1,450	852	1,350	93	825
December	1,060	214	6,200	3,750	3,140	89	1,090
Jan.-Dec.	69,400	11,100	15,800	9,520	14,000	1,330	12,800
1997:							
January	1,540	364	635	405	718	60	600
February	5,930	977	975	609	1,160	142	1,120
Total	7,470	1,340	1,610	1,010	1,880	203	1,720

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes low-, medium-, and high-carbon ferrochromium, and ferrochromium-silicon.

3/ Includes wrought and unwrought and waste and scrap.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF CHROMITE ORE,
FERROCHROMIUM, AND CHROMIUM METAL 1/

(Metric tons)

	1996		1997		
	December	Jan.-Dec.	January	February	Jan.-Feb.
Chromite ore:					
Not more than 40% chromic oxide:					
Gross weight	--	8,030	5,780	--	5,780
Chromic oxide content	--	2,650	1,910	--	1,910
More than 40% but less than 46% chromic oxide:					
Gross weight	--	25,400	--	--	--
Chromic oxide content	--	11,100	--	--	--
46% or more chromic oxide:					
Gross weight	1,030	217,000	31,900	3,030	34,900
Chromic oxide content	485	102,000	14,800	1,670	16,500
Total, all grades:					
Gross weight	1,030	250,000	37,700	3,030	40,700
Chromic oxide content	485	116,000	16,700	1,670	18,400
Ferrochromium:					
Low-carbon: 2/					
Gross weight	3,600	60,700	5,220	3,860	9,080
Chromium content	2,460	38,400	3,410	2,550	5,970
Medium-carbon: 3/					
Gross weight	--	36	17	--	17
Chromium content	--	23	11	--	11
High-carbon: 4/					
Gross weight	23,700	359,000	26,300	15,000	41,400
Chromium content	13,200	207,000	16,200	11,600	27,800
Total, all grades					
Gross weight	27,300	420,000	31,600	18,900	50,500
Chromium content	15,600	246,000	19,700	14,100	33,800
Chromium metal:					
Other than waste and scrap	795	8,670	560	918	1,480
Waste and scrap	--	67 r/	(5/)	2	3
Total, all grades	795	8,740 r/	561	921	1,480

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Ferrochromium containing not more than 3% carbon.

3/ Ferrochromium containing more than 3% carbon but not more than 4% carbon.

4/ Ferrochromium containing more than 4% carbon.

5/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 5
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF CHROMITE ORE IN FEBRUARY 1997,
BY GRADE AND BY COUNTRY 1/

Country	February			January-February		
	Gross weight (metric tons)	Cr ₂ O ₃ (metric tons)	Value 2/ (thousands)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Cr ₂ O ₃ (metric tons)	Value 2/ (thousands)
Not more than 40% chromic oxide:						
Philippines	--	--	--	5,780	1,910	\$1,050
46% or more chromic oxide:						
Canada	13	6	\$5	13	6	5
Russia	22	261	117	22	261	117
South Africa	3,000	1,410	1,950	34,900	16,200	4,780
Total	3,030	1,670	2,070	34,900	16,500	4,900
Total, all grades:						
Canada	13	6	5	13	6	5
Philippines	--	--	--	5,780	1,910	1,050
Russia	22	261	117	22	261	117
South Africa	3,000	1,410	1,950	34,900	16,200	4,780
Total	3,030	1,670	2,070	40,700	18,400	5,950

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Customs import value generally represents a value in the foreign country and therefore excludes U.S. import duties, freight, insurance and other charges incurred in bringing the merchandise to the United States.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF FERROCHROMIUM IN FEBRUARY 1997,
BY GRADE AND BY COUNTRY 1/

Country	February			January-February		
	Gross weight (metric tons)	Chromium content (metric tons)	Value 2/ (thousands)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Chromium content (metric tons)	Value 2/ (thousands)
High-carbon ferrochromium: 3/						
Canada	--	--	--	20	9	\$2
France	15,000	11,600	\$5,740	15,000	11,600	5,740
India	--	--	--	385	237	190
South Africa	--	--	--	2,800	1,420	1,070
Turkey	15	9	10	13,500	8,460	6,280
Zimbabwe	--	--	--	9,640	6,120	5,080
Total	15,000	11,600	5,750	41,400	27,800	18,400
Medium-carbon ferrochromium: 4/						
Switzerland	--	--	--	17	11	16
Low-carbon ferrochromium: 5/						
China	699	456	873	750	489	950
Germany	972	679	2,440	1,950	1,360	4,800
Japan	48	11	128	84	35	259
Russia	2,140	1,410	2,650	3,570	2,390	5,150
South Africa	--	--	--	1,450	841	1,600
Zimbabwe	--	--	--	1,280	847	1,570
Total	3,860	2,550	6,090	9,080	5,970	14,300
Total, all grades:						
Canada	--	--	--	20	9	2
China	699	456	873	750	489	950
France	15,000	11,600	5,740	15,000	11,600	5,740
Germany	972	679	2,440	1,950	1,360	4,800
India	--	--	--	385	237	190
Japan	48	11	128	84	35	259
Russia	2,140	1,410	2,650	3,570	2,390	5,150
South Africa	--	--	--	4,250	2,260	2,670
Switzerland	--	--	--	17	11	16
Turkey	15	9	10	13,500	8,460	6,280
Zimbabwe	--	--	--	10,900	6,960	6,660
Total	18,900	14,100	11,800	50,500	33,800	32,700

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Customs import value generally represents a value in the foreign country and therefore excludes U.S. import duties, freight, insurance and other charges incurred in bringing the merchandise to the United States.

3/ Ferrochromium containing more than 4% carbon.

4/ Ferrochromium containing more than 3% but not more than 4% carbon.

5/ Ferrochromium containing not more than 3% carbon.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 7
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF CHROMIUM METAL IN
FEBRUARY 1997, BY GRADE AND BY COUNTRY 1/

Country	February		January-February	
	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value 2/ (thousands)	Gross weight (metric tons)	Value 2/ (thousands)
Waste and scrap:				
Canada	2	\$8	2	\$8
Mexico	--	--	(3/)	2
Total	2	8	3	10
Other than waste and scrap:				
China	287	1,670	480	2,780
France	148	1,220	278	2,290
Germany	1	27	16	168
Hong Kong	17	99	51	302
Italy	(3/)	7	(3/)	7
Japan	3	195	25	970
Russia	345	2,170	406	2,530
Switzerland	--	--	(3/)	1
Taiwan	3	7	5	18
United Kingdom	114	1,110	218	1,990
Total	918	6,500	1,480	11,000
Total, all grades:				
Canada	2	8	2	8
China	287	1,670	480	2,780
France	148	1,220	278	2,290
Germany	1	27	16	168
Hong Kong	17	99	51	302
Italy	(3/)	7	(3/)	7
Japan	3	195	25	970
Mexico	--	--	(3/)	2
Russia	345	2,170	406	2,530
Switzerland	--	--	(3/)	1
Taiwan	3	7	5	18
United Kingdom	114	1,110	218	1,990
Total	921	6,510	1,480	11,100

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Customs import value generally represents a value in the foreign country and therefore excludes U.S. import duties, freight, insurance and other charges incurred in bringing the merchandise into the United States.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census.